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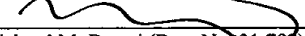
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Hans-Michael KÜHL et al.  
Serial No. : 09/835,261  
Filed : April 12, 2001  
For : ELASTOMER FLOOR COVERING AND METHOD  
FOR ITS MANUFACTURE  
Art Unit : 1774  
Examiner : Kimberly T. NGUYEN  
Confirmation No. : 5004

**Attn. BOX AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Attn: BOX AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

Date: February 19, 2003

Signature:   
Richard M. Rosati (Reg. No. 31,792)

**RULE 116 RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

SIR:

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed November 26, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response which expires on February 26, 2003.

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, please amend the specification as follows. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows: